Development of tourism in Manipur

615. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan submitted by the Government of Manipur to the Central Government for its approval and assistance for the development of tourism sector in Manipur during the last three years; and

(b) the necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Central financial assistance is provided to State Governments / UT Administrations including Government of Manipur for projects prioritized in consultation with them every year.

(b) Thirty six projects with Central financial component of Rs. 1152.26 lakhs have been sanctioned in Manipur during the last three years.

Flood and irrigation problems

616. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any special steps to solve the annual rituals like flood and irrigation problems in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Irrigation, including flood control and drainage, being a State subject the responsibility of planning funding executing and operating of Irrigation and Flood Control Schemes primarily rests with the concerned State Government. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytic and promotional in nature.

As regards floods, Ganga Flood Commission (GFCC) constituted by the Central Government in 1972 had prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board constituted in 1982 has prepared Master Plans for the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. These report/Master plan have been forwarded

to the concerned State Governments for taking follow up actions on the recommendations made therein. Both short terms and long term measures have been suggested in these Plans.

The Government of India has constituted expert committtees to study the problem of floods in the country. The Rashtriya Barth Ayog (RBA) set up in 1976 examined the problem in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of RBA, which form the framework for flood management strategy in the country, were forwarded to all the State Governments for implementation. Further, a number of other Expert Committees/Task Forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problem relating to floods, whose recommendations were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation.

The Central Government has also set up 159 flood Forecasting stations on major interstate rivers which give timely advance warning to flood affected regions in various States for mitigating flood damages.

As regards irrigation, the Government of India had launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 for accelerating implementation of on-going Irrigation/multipurpose projects on which substantial progress has been made and which are beyoud the resources capability of the State Governments and for other major and medium, irrigation projects which are in advance state of construction and could yield irrigation benefits in the next four agricultural seasons. Thus, the twin objective of AIBP are (i) to accelerate ongoing irrigation projects (ii) to realize bulk benefits from completed projects.

Since the inception of the programme from 1996-97, the Government has been able to expedite the creation of additional irrigation potential to the tune of 1126 th. ha. upto March, 2001 by releasing Central Loan Assistance amounting to Rs. 7375 crore to 148 major and medium projects and 2448 minor irrigation schemes.

Recently, the norms for releasing CLA under AIBP have been futher relaxed for such reforming State Governments which agree to revise their water rates so as to recover full O&M cost within a period of five years.

In addition to above, the Union Government has also approved a Fast Track Programme for 100% funding for major and medium projects in an advance state of construction which can be completed in one year.